Medicine for reducing the lipid level in the blood

†2806. SHRI MAHENDRA SAHNI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to Government study, the scientists engaged in the research have recently invented a new medicine to lessen the content of lipid and sugar in the blood;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) According to the Indian Council of Medical Research, a project funded by the Council in the Deptt. of Biochemistry, University College of Medical Science, Delhi has succeeded in isolating an active hypoglycemic compound from the pulp of black plum fruit Jamun. The four compounds isolated from the pulp when tested in animals have been found to reduce blood sugar. As this new product also reduces the blood level of cholesterol, it may prove to be effective in Diabetes mellitus, especially those having associated heart diseases. According to the Council, US patent has been granted for this and application for Indian patent has been filed. Toxicological studies have been carried out. It can be made available for treatment only after proving the safety and efficacy of the compounds in clinical trials and technology transfer.

ASHAs in Madhya Pradesh

†2807. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that near about three lakhs health workers (ASHAs) have been appointed in 18 States of the country;

(b) if so, the number of ASHAs appointed out of this in Madhya Pradesh;

(c) the details of wages and other facilities being provided per month to these newly appointed ASHAs; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) the criteria on which these ASHAs are selected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Yes, a total of 367200 ASHAs have been selected (as on 31.3.2007) in these 18 states.

(b) 31690 ASHAs have been selected (as on 31.3.2007) in the state of Madhya Pradesh.

(c) ASHA has been envisaged as an honorary volunteer and would not be paid any salary or honorarium. However, ASHA may be compensated for her time in the following situation:

- For duration of training in terms of TA and DA.
- For participating in monthly/bi-monthly for undertaking specific health or other social sector programmes with measurable out puts. (Disbursement of compensation to ASHA will be made as per specific payment mechanism built into individual programmes)
- Other than the above specific programme number of key health related activities and service outcomes are aimed within a village. The untied fund of Rs. 10,000 at sub-center level (to be jointly operated by ANM and Sarpanch) could be used as monitory compensation to ASHA for achieving these key processes. The exact package of processes that form the package would be determined at the state level depending on the supply-side constraints and what is feasible to achieve within the specified time period.
- Group recognition/awards may also be considered.
- Non-monetary incentive e.g. exposure visits, annual conventions etc. can be considered.
- A drug kit containing basic drugs should be given.
- ASHA is trained for basic health care of the community, she is provided with a drug kit and is provided performance-based incentive. She is provided a package of Rs. 600/-per case for the institutional delivery under Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY) Rs. 150/-per case for sterilization operation, Rs. 150/-per session for organizing village health day and Rs. 250/-per case for DOTS provision wherever she is DOTS provider.

(d) 1. The general norm is one ASHA for 1000 population. In tribal, hilly, desert areas the norms could be relaxed to one ASHA per habitation, depending on her workload.

2. Guide lines issued to states for criteria for selection of ASHA are as under:

(i) ASHA must be primarily a woman resident of the village 'Married/ Widow/Divorced' and preferably in the age group of 25 to 45 years.

(ii) ASHA should have effective communication skills, leadership qualities and be able to reach out to the community. She should be literate woman with formal education up to eight class.

(iii) Adequate representation from disadvantaged population groups should be ensured to serve such groups better.

3. In the state of Madhya Pradesh ASHA is selected on the basis of education up to 8th class (Relaxable to class 5th), permanent resident of the village for which she is selected. Age group of ASHA is 25—45 years and is Married/Separated/Divorcee.

Medicinal plant promotion measures

†2808. SHRI SAMAN PATHAK: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that thousands of medicinal plants of various species are found in Himalayan and hilly areas in the country;

(b) whether Government are taking any concrete steps for the proper use of these medicinal plants;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government have any proposal to set up a separate Medicinal Plant Board in Darjeeling Himalayan and hilly areas;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.